

**ROUTING AREA SELECTION FOR A COMMUNICATION DEVICE
ACCESSING A NETWORK THROUGH
AN ALTERNATIVE NETWORK CONTROLLER**

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ABSTRACT

A method (400) and apparatus (600) for selecting a routing area for establishing communication between a primary communication network (102) having a primary routing area (104) and a communication device (122) having a primary identification and supporting a cellular core network signaling protocol of the primary communication network (102) through a secondary communication network (112) are disclosed. The communication system (100) creates (404) a plurality of secondary routing areas (108, 110), each of which has at least one of a plurality of secondary communication networks (112, 114, 116, 118 120). Each secondary communication network is capable of providing a communication coverage for the communication device (122). The presence of the communication device (122) is detected (412) through a particular secondary communication network (112), and a target routing area (108) is determined (414). Services, originally directed to the primary identification of the communication device (122), is then re-directed (416) to the target routing area (108).